

insert of the plasmid deposited with ATCC as Accession Number PTA-790, or a complement thereof;

b) a nucleic acid molecule comprising a fragment of at least 30 nucleotides of a nucleic acid comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:3, the DNA insert of the plasmid deposited with ATCC as Accession Number PTA-790, or a complement thereof;

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c) a nucleic acid molecule which encodes a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence at least about 60% homologous to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, or an amino acid sequence encoded by the DNA insert of the plasmid deposited with ATCC as Accession Number PTA-790;

d) a nucleic acid molecule which encodes a fragment of a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, or the polypeptide encoded by the DNA insert of the plasmid deposited with ATCC as Accession Number PTA-790, wherein the fragment comprises at least 10 contiguous amino acid residues of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, or the polypeptide encoded by the DNA insert of the plasmid deposited with ATCC as Accession Number PTA-790; and

e) a nucleic acid molecule which encodes a naturally occurring allelic variant of a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2, or an amino acid sequence encoded by the DNA insert of the plasmid deposited with ATCC as Accession Number PTA-790, wherein the nucleic acid molecule hybridizes to a complement of a nucleic acid molecule comprising SEQ ID NO:1 or SEQ ID NO:3 under stringent conditions.

2. (Amended) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 which is selected from the group consisting of:

a) a nucleic acid molecule comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:3, or the DNA insert of the plasmid deposited with ATCC as Accession Number PTA-790, or a complement thereof; and

b) a nucleic acid molecule which encodes a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, or an amino acid sequence encoded by the DNA insert of the plasmid deposited with ATCC as Accession Number PTA-790.

8. (Amended) An isolated polypeptide selected from the group consisting of:

- A23
- a) a fragment of a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, or the polypeptide encoded by the DNA insert of the plasmid deposited with ATCC as Accession Number PTA-790, wherein the fragment comprises at least 10 contiguous amino acids of SEQ ID NO:2, or the amino acid sequence encoded by the DNA insert of the plasmid deposited with ATCC as Accession Number PTA-790;
 - b) a naturally occurring allelic variant of a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, or an amino acid sequence encoded by the DNA insert of the plasmid deposited with ATCC as Accession Number PTA-790, wherein the polypeptide is encoded by a nucleic acid molecule which hybridizes to a complement of a nucleic acid molecule comprising SEQ ID NO:1 or SEQ ID NO:3, under stringent conditions; and
 - c) a polypeptide which is encoded by a nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence which is at least 75% homologous to a nucleic acid comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 or SEQ ID NO:3, or the DNA insert of the plasmid deposited with ATCC as Accession Number PTA-790.
 - d) a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence which is at least 60% homologous to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, or the polypeptide encoded by the DNA insert of the plasmid deposited with ATCC as Accession Number PTA-790.

9. (Amended) The isolated polypeptide of claim 8 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, or an amino acid sequence encoded by the DNA insert of the plasmid deposited with ATCC as Accession Number PTA-790.

12. (Amended) A method for producing a polypeptide selected from the group consisting of:

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- a) a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2, or an amino acid sequence encoded by the DNA insert of the plasmid deposited with ATCC as Accession Number PTA-790;
 - b) a fragment of a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, or an amino acid sequence encoded by the DNA insert of the plasmid deposited with ATCC as Accession Number PTA-790 wherein the fragment comprises at least 10